GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

EFS&T Department – Disciplinary action against Sri S.Lakshminarayana, Forest Range Officer (Retd.) formerly worked in Sanipaya Range of Wild Life Management Division, Rajampeta – Departmental Proceedings under Rule 20 of APCS(CC&A) Rules 1991 – Article of Charge issued – Findings of the Inquiry Officer communicated – Imposing a penalty of 2% (two percent) cut in pension for a period of five (5) years besides recovery of Rs.1,11,154/-(25% of Rs.4,44,615/- excess expenditure) - Show-Cause Notice Issued – Further defence statement received – Concurrence of the APPSC obtained – Final Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 24 Dated: 08-10-2020.

Read the following:

1. From the PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Guntur, Lr.Rc.No.8038/2007/A&DC-1, dt.22.10.2018.
2. Memo. No.4810/Sec.IV/A1/2018, EFS&T(Sec.IV)Dept., dt:29-01-2019.
3. From the PCCF Lr.Rc. No.8038/2007/A&DC-1, dt.04.07.2019 and 04.11.2019.
4. Govt. Lr. No. EFS01-FRST0FVIG/2/2018-S4-EFS&T, dt.11.06.2020.
5. From the APPSC, Vijayawada Letter No.253/DC&C/2020, dated 25.08.2020.

*****

ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), A.P. has informed that an Article of Charge was issued to Sri S. Lakshmi Narayana, Forest Range Officer (Retd.) formerly worked in Sanipaya Range of Wild Life Management Division, Rajampeta, by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) vide Rc.No.8038/2007/P2, dated 16.02.2012 on the following count:-

Article: "That the said Sri S. Lakshmi Narayana, FRO (Retd.) has exhibited gross neglect of legitimate duty by not check measuring the works executed by the lower subordinates under FDA Project during the year 2006-07, resulting in excess expenditure incurred of Rs.4,02,322/-"

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the Article of Charge on 12.03.2012 and submitted representation dated 22-03-2013 for perusal of connected documents as detailed in Annexure-II of Article of Charge to submit his detailed defence statement. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF) has permitted for perusal of records vide Rc.No.8038/2007/P2 dt.26.03.2012. But the Charged Officer did not submit his written defense statement in stipulated time. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF), A.P. vide Rc.No.8038/2007/P2, dated 30.04.2012 has appointed Conservator of Forests, Wild Life Management Circle Tirupati as Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Wild Life Division Rajampet as Presenting Officer, to conduct regular enquiry. After appointment of Inquiry Officer, the Charged Officer has submitted his explanation on 14.03.2013 before the Inquiry Officer.

3. The Inquiry Officer i.e., Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests /Conservator of Forests, Wild Life Management Circle Tirupati conducted the inquiry and submitted findings vide his letter dated 19.02.2018 in which he concluded that:

Findings:

"Having gone through the AOC, explanation submitted by the Delinquent Officer and records available with this office, it is evident that the delinquent Officer has not inspected

the works executed during his tenure in six VSS under FDA Schemes resulting into excess expenditure of Rs.4,51,118 as reported by the PO. The delinquent Officer didn't bother to test check the works being carried out in the said six VSS. The deviation in the works were pointed out by the DFO, WL Division Rajampet. The Delinquent Officer failed to defend himself in his explanation submitted. Therefore, the charges stands proved beyond any doubt. DFO, Rajampet has passed recovery orders of Rs.1,12,780/- (25%) of the amount charged in excess i.e., 4,51,118/-. He further reported that the amount couldn't be recovered from delinquent Officer as he proceeded on leave and retired from service subsequently. The same will be shown in the NDC as reported by DFO, WL Division, Rajampet".

4. The findings of the Inquiry Officer were communicated to the Charged Officer vide Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF) letter dated 21.03.2018 for submission of further defense. The Charged Officer submitted his further defence statement on 26.4.2018.

5. Since the Charged Officer Sri S. Lakshminarayana, FRO has retired from Government service on attaining the age of superannuation on 28.02.2009, the disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

6. After careful examination of the issue, with reference to the findings of the Inquiry Officer, remarks of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF) and the material made available, the Government have taken a provisional decision to impose a penalty of 2% cut in pension for a period of (5) years besides recovery of Rs.1,11,154/- (25% of Rs.4,44,615/- excess expenditure) from Sri S. Lakshminarayana, FRO (Retd), in the disciplinary case.

7. Accordingly vide Govt. Memo 2nd read above a Show-Cause Notice was issued to the retired officer. In the letter 3rd read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) has furnished the further defence statement of the Charged Officer and stated that the Charged Officer has not put forth any new/fresh/valid points. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF) has requested the Government to pass necessary orders in the matter.

8. Government, after careful examination of the matter, hereby order to impose a penalty of 2%(two percent) cut in pension for a period of five (5) years besides recovery of Rs.1,11,154/- (Rupees One lakh eleven thousand one hundred and fifty four only) i.e., 25% of Rs.4,44,615/- excess expenditure, from Sri S. Lakshminarayana, FRO (Retd), in the disciplinary case under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

9. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoFF), A.P. Guntur shall take action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A.P., Guntur
(with original record Rc. No. 386/07).
The Individual (through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests).
Copy to:
The Accountant General (A&E) A.P., Hyderabad.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada, (with ref. to Lr.No.253/DC&C/2020, dt.25.08.2020).
The PS to M (EFS&T).
The PS to Special Chief Secretary to Govt., EFS&T Dept.
Sf./Sc.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER